

Wetlands Protection - Program Development Grants

2004 Requests for Proposals

Full Text Announcement

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

The purpose and special emphasis of this grant program is to provide funding for projects which develop: 1) comprehensive wetland monitoring programs using environmental indicators, assess biological health, estimate wetland losses, gains, and functions; 2) ecologically effective compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts; 3) protection for isolated wetlands and other sensitive aquatic resources; and 4) tribal wetland conservation plans. Development of Habitat Conservation Plans, projects set forth by other federal agencies, or long-term planning projects not connected to near-term implementation are a low priority.

II. Award Information

EPA Region 9 Water Division intends to award about \$1.5 million to eligible applicants through cooperative agreements ranging in size from \$50,000 up to \$250,000. Fifteen to 20 pre-proposals will be invited to submit final grant applications. Ten to fifteen final applications will be funded. EPA substantial involvement will include technical oversight and assistance.

III. Eligibility Information

EPA Region 9 is soliciting pre-proposals from states, local, and tribal governments for Federal assistance for Wetlands Protection Program Cooperative Agreements (CFDA 66.461) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 104(b)(3). Assistance will be targeted to applicants who have successfully demonstrated the ability to carry out Federal grant programs. A 25 percent match is required which is calculated from total project costs, not from the federal grant amount. Costs incurred prior to grant award will not be reimbursed. Research, operational support, or implementation activities are ineligible.

IV. Pre-Proposal Submission Information

Pre-proposals should follow the outline below, not exceed two 8 ½ x 11" pages of font size 10 text, and one 8 ½ x 11" map. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the pre-proposal. Pre-proposals must be in EPA Region 9's office by 3/19/2004.

1. Name of project (Location, area, type and acres of wetlands, watershed, zip codes)
2. Point of contact (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)
3. Proposed total project costs, federal funding share, match share
4. Description of general budget proposed to support project
5. Project schedule, including start, interim milestone dates, and completion date
6. Project description, with key milestones and final products, including plan for distributing project results to interested parties
7. General environmental monitoring parameters and quality assurance plan needs
8. Explanation of why project funds are needed this year

9. Names of governments and other organizations that will participate (as an audience or as a participant)
10. Explain how the project is consistent with existing wetland/watershed plans and/or Statewide, regional wetland plans

Please send three paper copies of the pre-proposal to:

**Program manager
U.S. EPA Region 9 (WTR-4)
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105**

For additional information, please contact Cheryl McGovern at (415) 972-3415 . Pre-proposals must be received by EPA Region 9 by March 19, 2004. Fax or email copies may be accepted. Proposals received after this date will not be reviewed.

V. Pre- Proposal Review Information

EPA will award Water Quality Cooperative Agreements on a competitive basis/and evaluate pre-proposals based on the following criteria:

- o The relationship of the proposed project to the priorities identified in this notice
- o Clarity, content, value and transferability, measures of success, public participation, schedule and budget content, readiness to start project, support by others, relationship to existing plans, priorities, and policies
- o Cost effectiveness of the proposal
- o Compliance with directions contained in this notice
- o Experience with EPA-funded grant programs

The pre-proposal will be evaluated by EPA staff on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being high and 4 being low. The criteria above will have essentially equal weight. Final selection will be made by the Director, Water Division, EPA Region 9. Selected organizations will be notified and requested to submit a full application.

VI. Award Administration

Pre-proposals that are selected for continuance in the process will be sent an application kit for funding. These recipients will be invited to submit a detailed work plan and completed application for funding. The application must contain an original signature by the entities' authorized representative and all financial match commitments must be secured. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the work plan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of Wetlands Protection - Program Development Cooperative Agreements: 40 CFR Parts 31 and 35

Quarterly project status reports and a Financial Status Reports will be required. Quarterly reports

should describe project activities and provide the EPA Project Officer with information about project development. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

Disputes: Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

Confidentiality: Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

EPA Reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information, please contact:

Cheryl McGovern

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Fax: (415) 947-3537

Email: mcgovern.cheryl@epa.gov